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REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-24 are pending, of which claims 1 and 22-24 are independent; and claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 16, 18, and 22-24 are amended.

Applicants traverse the rejection of claims 1-5, 10, 15-17, and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Lin et al. (U.S. 6,052,785), as well as the rejection of claims 6-8, 11-14, 18, 20, and 21 as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Lin in view of Kausik et al. (U.S. 6,263,446) and the rejection of claim 9 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lin in view of Liao et al. (U.S. 6,606,663).

To expedite prosecution, independent claims 1 and 23 are amended to require a store to be accessible by, and arranged so, parties other than the owner of credentials and security certificates are able to read the owner's credentials and certificates. Independent method claim 22 includes a similar limitation, requiring accessing the store by parties other than the owner who read the owner's credentials and security certificate. Claim 24 now requires the store to be accessible to, and arranged so, entities other than the entity to whom the credentials and security certificates belong are able to read the credentials and certificates.

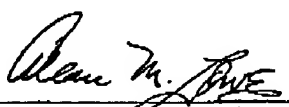
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None of the references of record, including Lin, disclose or suggest the foregoing limitations of independent claims 1 and 22-24. Kausik and Liao fail to cure the deficiencies of Lin as a primary reference. Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 22-24 are allowable. Claims 2-21 depend from independent claim 1 and are, therefore, allowable for at least the same reasons, as well as for the additional limitations provided by these claims. Favorable reconsideration and allowance are deemed in order, and such action is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants hereby request any extension of time necessary to file this reply and hereby authorize the Commissioner to charge any required fees not otherwise provided for, including application processing, extension, and extra claims fees, to Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,
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